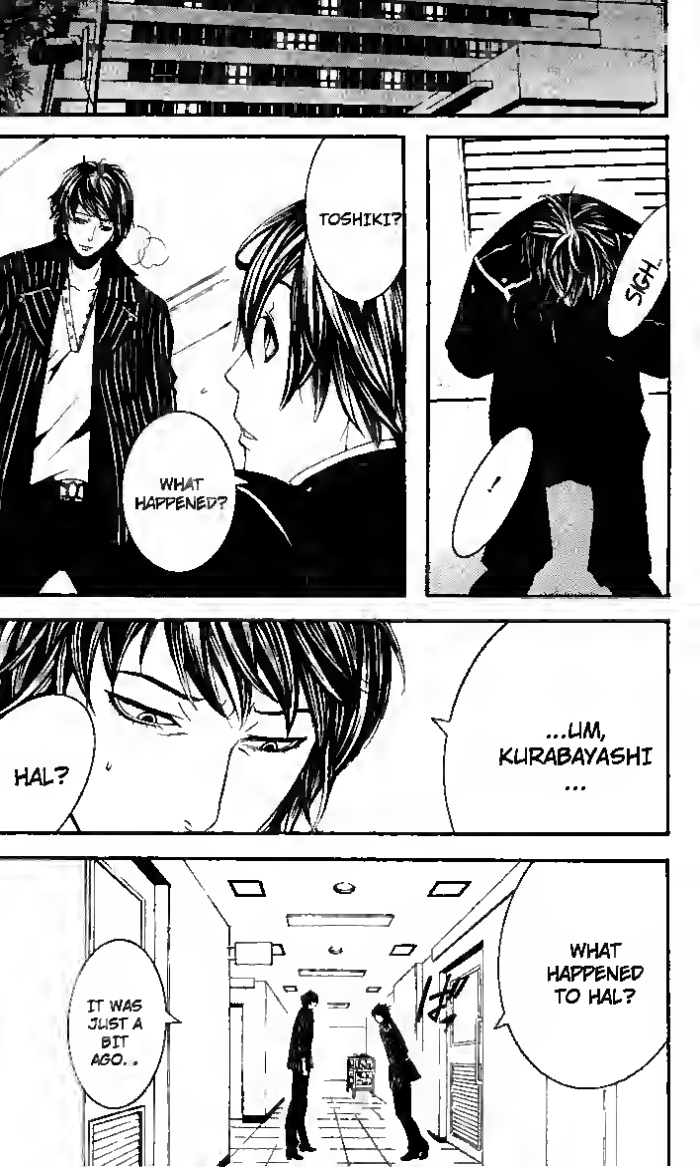
ARGH....
HOLD TIGHTLY SQUEEZE
PINCH
BANG
BREATH.

SLIDE
!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT BASTARD GO?!
SLAM
KURA-BAYASHI!
HEY!
MURMUR
MURMUR
KURABAYASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!


TOSHIKI?
WHAT HAPPENED?
SIGH.
HAL?
...UM, KURABAYASHI ...
IT WAS JUST A BIT AGO..
WHAT HAPPENED TO HAL?

HE'S HOSPITALIZED NOW.
!!
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
WE GOT SEPARATED DURING THE INVESTIGATION.
WHEN I FOUND HIM HE WAS...
I...DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE
!!
HAL!
..I JUST REMEMBERED THAT YOU'D BE IN THE HOSPITAL, TOO..
HAL... HAL...!

PLEASE CALM DOWN! WE NEED TO DO A BODY CHECK!
I'M FINE NOW, SO RELEASE ME FROM HOSPITAL!
HA!
LET ME GO.
YEAH!
HEY! LET ME GO!
PLEASE CALM DOWN! MR. KURABAYASHI!
LIKE I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU...
...EH...?
HA!?
HE'S SO MEAN. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW
...
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE THE IDIOT THAT BROUGHT ME TO THE HOSPITAL!
SEE, HE REALLY IS MEAN.
BUT HE REALLY IS INJURED!

BANG
HA!---!
CALM DOWN, AND LISTEN TO WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY!
ARGH!
DO YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE LAST TIME...?
WHEN YOU LEFT HOSPITAL, BUT YOUR WOUND ONLY GOT WORSE?
I'M TELLING YOU NOW THAT I AM FINE...
SO HEAVY
YOU...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS...
SOB
SOB...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...!
CRY—
.....
OKAY. OKAY.

UNHAPPY
HAHA. IT'S ALL GOOD.
LOOK
NAH....
IT MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING
....EXACTLY WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT MY CONDITION?
I'LL REMEMBER THIS

I'M FINE NOW... OKAY, I GOT IT ...

REALLY...

...I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY SURFACED AGAIN...
SAWAKI... THE "RIGHT ARM OF RYUUGEN"?
BANG
THERE ARE ONLY SOME MARKS LEFT ON MY NECK. OTHERWISE, I'M JUST PEACHY.
THAT'S GOOD.
CLICK
THIS GUY WILL DEFINITELY SHOW HIMSELF IF WE KEEP TRACKING RYUUGEN.
IT APPEARS THAT THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. THE SAME HEIGHT AND ABLE TO CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE AT WILL.
SO, IT'S LIKE THAT?
HAL WAS LUCKY THIS TIME. HE NEARLY DIED.
.. NEARLY?

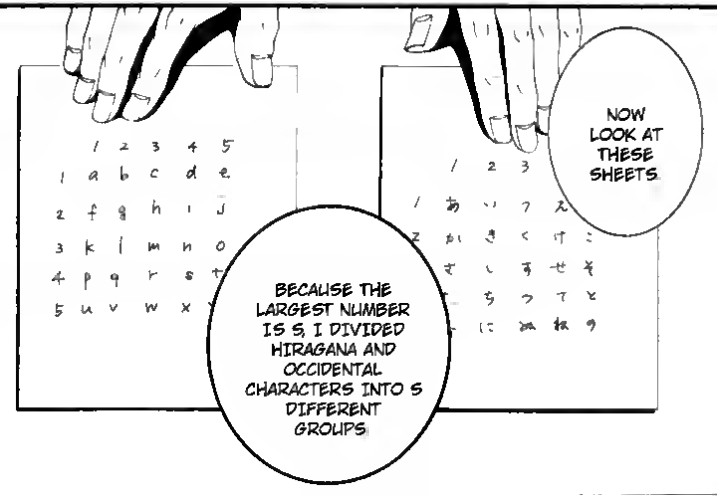
SAWAKI DIDN'T KILL HIM. THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY...
WHY?
IF THAT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO KILL HAL, THEN THE JOB DIDN'T NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED SPECIFICALLY BY THE RIGHT ARM OF RYUUGEN, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE "SWITCH" THAT APPEARED 16 YEARS AGO
IS IT SWITCH..
IS THERE REALLY A CONNECTION WITH SWITCH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
!

I GOT IT...!
YEAH.
INFORMATION DIVISION
AH---!
EH? NO! YOU GOT IT FIRST!
HEY DIRECTOR, I DECIPHERED ONE OF THE CODES.
HAHA, LET ME SEE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ABLE TO DECODE IT, AFTER INTENSIVE DECIPHERING, WHAT YOU DECODED WAS JUST ANOTHER SET OF CODES
.....
DO YOU WANT ME TO EXPLAIN ?
YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF.
HE REALLY LIKES THAT
..YEAH, GO AHEAD

AS EVERYONE CAN SEE, IT CONSISTS OF NUMERALS RANGING FROM 1 TO 5. AND...
443542543132
FIRSTLY, THERE'S THIS SET OF NUMBERS.

writhes
writhes
SO, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS: "44," "35," "42," "54,"...

THERE ARE 12 NUMBERS TOTAL, AN EVEN NUMBER.
IF ONE NUMBER REPRESENTS A CHARACTER, THEN THERE IS A CHANCE THE CHARACTERS COULD REPEAT, BUT WE'LL IGNORE THAT FOR NOW.
WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT 2 DIGITS REPRESENT ONE LETTER.


NOW LOOK AT THESE SHEETS.
BECAUSE THE LARGEST NUMBER IS 5, I DIVIDED HIRAGANA AND OCCIDENTAL CHARACTERS INTO 5 DIFFERENT GROUPS.

SO WE NEED TO DECIPHER IT!
"TENEKUT-OUKO"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WE ALSO USED THE SAME METHOD WITH ENGLISH LETTERS...
SO TAKE THE NUMBER "44" GO DOWN 4, AND THEN ACROSS 4. WHAT CHARACTER DO YOU GET?
TE
?
CORRECT
IN THIS WAY, WE CAN DECIPHER THE REST OF THE NUMBERS.
→C←...
→T←..
→I←..
→W←...
→S←...
→H←.
.....IT'S...
IS IT AN ON/OFF BUTTON?
BUT, WHAT IS →SWITCH←?
→SWITCH←...?
...IT'S →SWITCH←.

THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS INVESTIGATION.
DON'T INVESTIGATE ANY FURTHER...
switch...
IBU?
.....
AH, SWITCH ...
DIRECTOR, YOU SEEM TO KNOW SOMETHING.
BUT YOU'RE LIKE IBU, JUST KEEPING SILENT ABOUT IT.
DIRECTOR KATSURAGI, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
SOME-THING THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO "SWITCH"
YOU OBVIOUSLY WOULDN'T KNOW. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
WHERE SHOULD I START...
AH... SO IT'S THAT...

!
THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE LEFT BEHIND AFTER THE INCIDENT, JUST MEMORIES.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH!
COUGH...
HEY, I'M FINE!
I REALLY WANT TO RETURN TO WORK SOON, THIS JUST DOESN'T FEEL NORMAL.
CLAP
...WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR..
ACTUALLY, MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
HUH? EVERYTHING'S FINE.
DOO
HOW IS THE INVESTIGATIONS WITH RYUUGEN?
REALLY..

I KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHEN THE BOMB EXPLODED. I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT METHOD THEY USED.
THAT GUY ACTUALLY PLANNED EVERYTHING HIMSELF.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
EVEN SOME PEOPLE FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH KNOW THAT THERE WAS A SPY COORDINATING...
YOU ...
ARE YOU SUSPECTING OUR COLEAGUES..
THERE ARE SOME SUSPICOUS PEOPLE!
I DON'T WANT OTHER COLLEAGUES TO END UP LIKE ME.
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!
YES...
SO...
...THE COLLEAGUE WHO BETRAYED US... WHO IS IT...?

OPEN
YOU...
HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?
THE INVESTIGATION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LOOKING AFTER YOU HAS GONE OUT TEMPORARILY.
SO, WE WILL LOOK AFTER YOU FOR NOW.
THIS IS YOUR DIARY
IF YOU DON'T WANT US HERE, YOU CAN JUST TELL US.
HOW IS YOUR MEMORY COMING ALONG?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO REMEMBER YOUR NAME BY NOW?

.....
AH... THANKS
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.
THEN, I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE FOR A WHILE.
IS MR. ISOBE HERE?
YEAH? THAT'S ME!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
NO PROBLEM ...
HAVE YOU REMEMBERED IT YET?
MURMUR
...NO, I CAN'T...
AH... IS THAT SO...

DON'T FORCE IT.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER IT.
WON'T HELP.
!
WE CAN DO IT SLOWLY.
.....
HMM
OKAY, LET'S SEE.
.....

HAS HE REMEMBERED ANYTHING?
TSUYUKI... IS HE FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH ...?
THAT KID WITH AMNESIA ...
...HOW IS HE?
COUGH COUGH
HMM... TSUYUKI AND ISOBE ARE LOOKING AFTER HIM NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO, NOT YET.
ZU
EVERY TIME I TRY TO HELP HIM, HE TURNS ME AWAY..
.....
ha
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT TO DO...
WHAT THE HELL IS MASATAKA THINKING...

I TOLD YOU I WAS FINE...
TAKE CARE
THANK YOU!
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NO INJURIES, YOU CANNOT PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
CIGARETTES!
NO!
JACKET !!
YES!
NONSENSE. YOU ARE SO USELESS
YOU CAN'T SMOKE IN THE HOSPITAL ...!
STOP

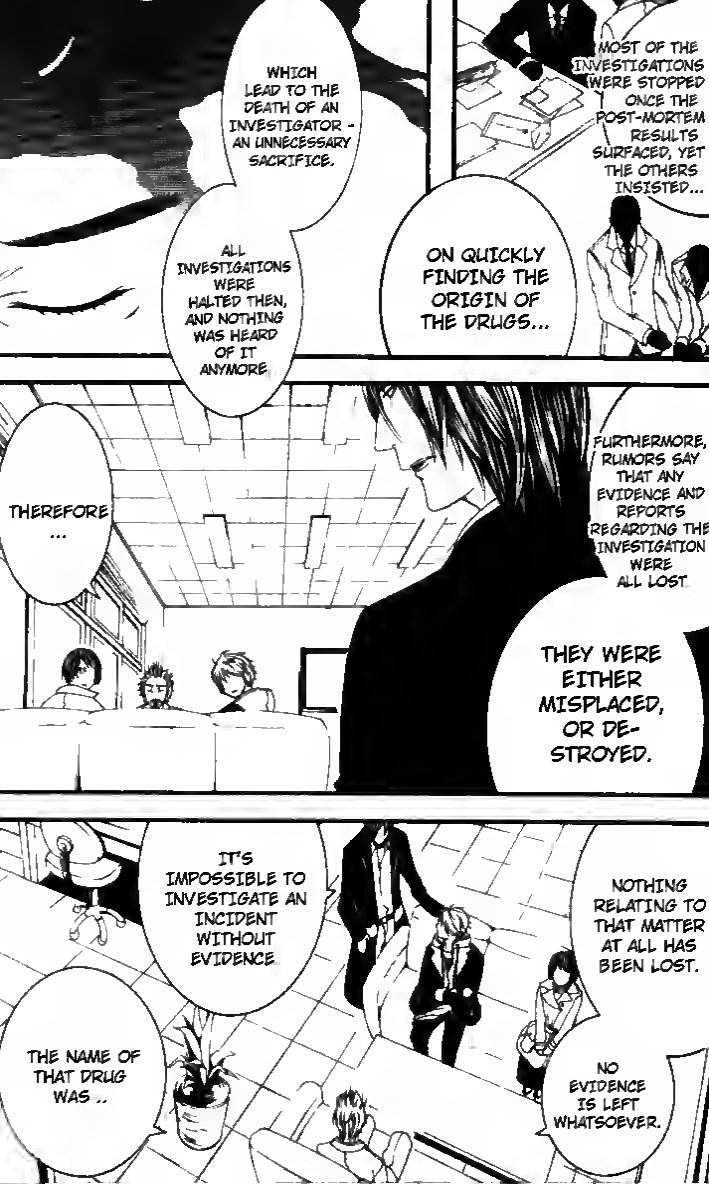
HOW ANNOYING
...THAT HURTS
CLICK
IT'S BENT
.....
COUGH COUGH
HAL?
!
THAT HURTS ...
THE MISSING PIECE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, YET YOU STILL DON'T SEE IT...
THE KID WHO LOST HIS MEMORY...

WHY WAS THIS MISSION SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU, AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE?
AH, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE ...
I'VE HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE ?
A SIMILAR EXPERI-ENCE?
BUT THAT WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG
OR MAYBE THERE WAS ANOTHER TIME, AND I JUST HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF IT
I...

HAVE LOST MY MEMORY, TOO.
IT WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO ---
SOME KIND OF NEW DRUG BEGAN SURFACING AROUND THE KANTO REGION. KANTO WAS THE CENTER OF THE DRUG DEALING.
AT THE TIME, THE KANTO MINISTRY OF HEALTH OBVIOUSLY NOTICED IT
AND CONTINUED TO SEARCH FOR THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING THE DRUGS
BUT ...
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF MONITORING THE DRUG TRAFFICKING.
PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T POSSIBLY OBTAIN THE DRUG SHOWED SIGNS OF IT ANYWAY.
AND ...
EVERYTHING THEY DID WAS USELESS.
USELESS?

THEY LEFT NO EVIDENCE BEHIND.
!
EVERYONE RELATED TO THE INCIDENT,
INCLUDING VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS... WERE ALL KILLED.
AND...
I HAVE THE SAME FEELING TO WHAT YOU SAID TO ME YESTERDAY ...
TAKE
"HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RUN AN INVESTIGATION WITH NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER?"
HINIRIHC
2
I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT IT!
WHY WAS IT DURING THAT TIME THAT "THAT THING" UNEXPECTEDLY CAME OUT?
.....
I DON'T WANT TO BRING WHAT HAPPENED SIXTEEN YEARS AGO INTO THIS INVESTIGATION.
BUT.

THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DIED EVERYDAY. ALL CAUSED BY THE "DEATH DRUG".
WHEN THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED, I WAS STILL A STUDENT, YET I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.
IT WAS ON THE NEWS EVERYDAY.
THOSE WHO WERE KILLED OR COMMITTED SUICIDE WERE JUST A FRACTION OF IT.
BUT...
THE LOCATIONS IN WHICH EACH PERSON DIED WAS NEVER THE SAME, BUT THEY WERE ALL DUE TO THE DRUG.
UPON POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS, IT WAS REVEALED THAT NONE OF THE VICTIMS HAD ANY REACTIONS TO THE DRUG.
AT THAT TIME, THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ONLY CONSISTED OF ONE DIVISION.
BUT SOME OF THE INVESTIGATORS REFUSED TO GIVE UP.


ON QUICKLY FINDING THE ORIGIN OF THE DRUGS...
MOST OF THE INVESTIGATIONS WERE STOPPED ONCE THE POST-MORTEM RESULTS SURFACED, YET THE OTHERS INSISTED...
WHICH LEAD TO THE DEATH OF AN INVESTIGATOR - AN UNNECESSARY SACRIFICE.
ALL INVESTIGATIONS WERE HALTED THEN, AND NOTHING WAS HEARD OF IT ANYMORE
FURTHERMORE, RUMORS SAY THAT ANY EVIDENCE AND REPORTS REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION WERE ALL LOST.
THEREFORE ...
THEY WERE EITHER MISPLACED, OR DE-STROYED.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT WITHOUT EVIDENCE
NOTHING RELATING TO THAT MATTER AT ALL HAS BEEN LOST.
THE NAME OF THAT DRUG WAS ..
NO EVIDENCE IS LEFT WHATSOEVER.

THE ILLUSIONARY DRUG: "SWITCH"!
THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS SUGGESTING THAT THE DRUG HAS NO SIDE EFFECTS, AND LEAVES NO RESIDUAL EVIDENCE ON THE PERSON
THE DRUG ACTS LIKE A SWITCH, BEING ABLE TO EASILY CHANGE ONESELF.
DANGER!
I HAVE NO MEMORY OF ANYTHING BEFORE I WAS SEVEN.
I...
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYMORE, SINCE I WORKED AT THE KINKI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AT THAT TIME
I SOMETIMES QUESTION THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT DRUG ...
DID IT ACTUALLY EXIST?
I FIRST LEARNT ABOUT THE DRUG FROM A FORMER CHIEF..

KAI !!
KABOOM
I ONLY REMEMBER THAT THERE WAS SOME ACCIDENT HAPPENING
KAI...
KAI...!
.....
...WHO ARE YOU...?
KAI!
WHERE AM I? WHO ARE THEY?
I...

WHO AM I?
THE ACCIDENT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS, BUT I WAS HIT ON THE HEAD. I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
AT THAT TIME, MY MIND WAS A COMPLETE BLANK, AND I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE AROUND ME.
I WAS SO AFRAID AND ANXIOUS, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT...
SO..
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW HE FEELS. IF WE KEEP BUGGING HIM
IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE HARMFUL ...
...DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW?
I WAS STILL YOUNG. AND I WAS ABLE TO CATCH UP IN SCHOOL VERY QUICKLY, SO IT WAS FINE.
THAT'S SEVEN YEARS' WORTH OF MEMORIES.
IN THE END, DID YOU EVER REMEMBER?
AND...

...EVEN SO...
WHY NOT USE THE EXACT SAME METHOD FOR THAT BOY, TOO?
MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE, SO I FELT SAFE.
I WASN'T AFRAID, EVEN THOUGH I LOST MY MEMORIES.
THE EXACT SAME METHOD?
THE SAME AS WHEN YOU WERE A KID. CALM HIS FEARS AND MAKE HIM FEEL SAFE.
JUST LIKE ME...
IN ORDER TO HELP HIM REGAIN HIS MEMORIES FASTER.

YOU ALWAYS TRY TO HELP OTHERS, BUT YOU END UP ANNOYING THEM INSTEAD...BUT THIS TIME, HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO DO?
THANK YOU, HAL. YOU'RE AWE-SOME.
IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE WELL. THEN I WOULD BE ANNOYED.
YEAH?
AH... AH!
YES.
I UNDERSTAND ...
THAT BRAT'S MEMORIES ...
MAYBE IT'S THE ONE WHO HAS THE KEY TO "SWITCH" ...
THE KID WHO LOST HIS MEMORY ...
WHO LOST HIS MEMORY...

WHEN YOU LOST YOUR MEMORIES, YOU WERE SEVEN YEARS OLD...?
OPEN
YES.
WAIT!
WHAT?
IT WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO?
!
HOLD TIGHT
COULD IT BE...
THIS GUY IS REALLY THE KEY TO "SWITCH"?

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YOU CAN FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FORM AT
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HAL?
THAT MUST BE WHAT'S GOING ON
AH...
I'M AN IDIOT.
SORRY...
?
THAT WOULD JUST BE A COINCIDENCE, HAPPENING SIXTEEN YEARS AGO..

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT KAI WAS THE KEY TO "SWITCH".
HMMM

.....
LEAN
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ....
SWISH
SWISH
CLACK
EH?
HAVE TO FIND SOME EVIDENCE REGARDING THE "SUSPECT".
HMMM

SORRY, THANK YOU.
IS KURABAYASHI ALRIGHT?
YEP, HE'S BETTER NOW.
SLIDE
I'LL BE OFF.
.....
THANKS....
I'LL BE LEAVING, THEN.
AND THANKS TO YOU, TOO.
SURE THING.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ISOBE.
DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT HIM TO REMEMBER?
!
IF HE COULD REGAIN HIS MEMORIES, THEN WOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON RYUUGEN?
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
YES...
WHAT NEXT?
OF COURSE!

YOU...
PUSH

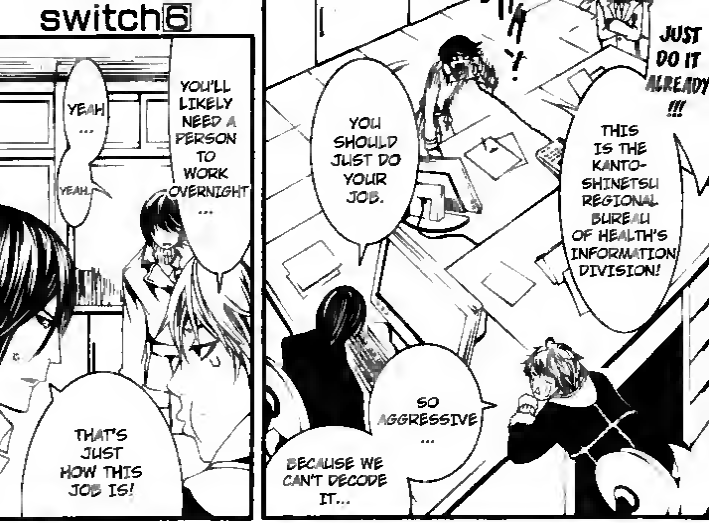
YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD TODAY...
DO YOU WANT TO LIE DOWN?

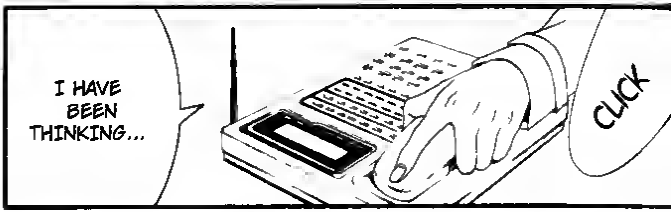
!!

IS IT BETTER FOR YOU THAT I DON'T REGAIN MY MEMORIES ?
MURMUR
!!
?
THERE'S SOMEONE WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION WHO DOESN'T WANT ME TO.

A BUGGING DEVICE ...!
IF PEOPLE KNEW THAT MY MEMORY HAS STARTED TO RETURN ...
...I WOULD BE KILLED BY RYUUGEN!
!
IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO INSTALLED THE BUGGING DEVICE, I WANT YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.
PLEASE TAKE ME TO A CERTAIN PLACE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CONFIRM.
CONFIRM?
I'M NOT TOO SURE ...
BUT...

THAT PLACE SHOULD ALLOW ME TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING !!!
!
INFORMATION DIVISION
NOW, I ALSO KNOW THAT DECIPHERING THE CODE IS VERY IMPORTANT...
RING RING RING
BUT THE INFORMATION DIVISION ONLY CONSISTS OF FOUR PEOPLE,
AND THREE OF THEM ARE REQUIRED TO DECIPHER THE CODE. AND WE ARE ALSO VERY BUSY ON OTHER THINGS....
.....
RING RING RING
!!
RING RING RI


YEAH ...
YEAH.
YOU'LL LIKELY NEED A PERSON TO WORK OVERNIGHT ...
THAT'S JUST HOW THIS JOB IS!
YOU SHOULD JUST DO YOUR JOB.
BECAUSE WE CAN'T DECODE IT...
SO AGGRESSIVE ...
THIS IS THE KANTO-SHINETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH'S INFORMATION DIVISION!
JUST DO IT ALREADY !!!


I HAVE BEEN THINKING...
CLICK

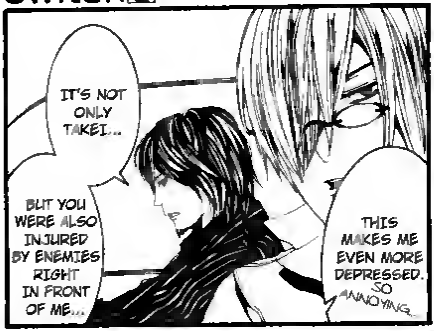
WE CAN AT LEAST USE THE SCRAMBLED LETTERS TO ORDER THEM
MAYBE SO... BUT EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE..
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T DECIPHER IT..

WASN'T "SWITCH" A BIT TOO EASY?

IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO HIDE THE CODE,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE USED A MORE COMPLICATED METHOD.
BASICALLY ...
THE CODE IS NOT REALLY IMPOR-TANT.
NIHIHIN
EVEN IF WE DID USE MICROCHIPS, WE'RE STILL DECIPHERING IT QUITE QUICKLY, AREN'T WE?
MAYBE THEY PURPOSEFULLY WANTED US TO GET THIS MESSAGE!
RIHINIRIHC
IF I'M RIGHT, THEN THERE SHOULD BE AN EASIER WAY OF DECIPHERIG THIS..
EVEN EASIER THAN THIS...
AH!
?

THIS IS TOO EASY. IT MAKES ME FEEL UNEASY...
AND...
YOU DECI-PHERED IT?
MASAMI?
THIS MAKES ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT
IF THE ANSWER'S CORRECT, THEN IT SURE WAS SIMPLE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

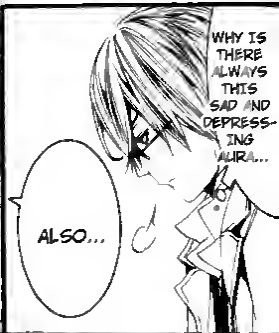
.....
COME BACK SOON
???
EH...
THAT WAS TOTALLY INAPPRO-PRIATE.
I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH, IT'S JUST..
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM ANYWAY? YOU LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT BEING SLIGHTLY INJURED WAS EQUIVALENT TO BEING ON THE VERGE OF DEATH! AND HE WAS ACTUALLY CRYING!


IT'S NOT ONLY TAKEI...
BUT YOU WERE ALSO INJURED BY ENEMIES RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
THIS MAKES ME EVEN MORE DEPRESSED. SO ANNOYING.

HE IS SUCH A SENSITIVE PERSON.
.....

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY FEEL PRETTY USELESS AS A PERSON.

YOU HAVE TO BE CA[illegible]L.
?
OKAY.
.....


WHY IS THERE ALWAYS THIS SAD AND DEPRESSING AURA...
ALSO...

NO……
IT'S NOTHING
……
RING RING
RING RING
RING RING
!
HELLO
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
……YEAH.
I'M FINE.
HAS SHIVA ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT ME?
WHAT?

QUIT JOKING! I WILL NOT PULL OUT!
DO YOU WANT TO BE INJURED AGAIN?
YOU ARE TO STOP INVESTIGATING THE RYUUGEN.
!
WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, TOO!
YOU ARE TOO RASH AND IMPULSIVE, AND THIS TIME YOU NEARLY...!
PLEASE LOOK THROUGH IT.
WE HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED VARIOUS PEOPLE PICTURED THERE.
THESE ARE THE PROFILES OF THE PEOPLE STORED IN THE MICROCHIP.

IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, THEN SAWAKI WILL COME AFTER YOU! THEREFORE, WE'VE DECIDED TO DROP YOU FROM THE CASE
IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS! JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!
THAT'S BULLSHIT!
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
...SAWAKI...?
IF HE REALLY WANTED TO KILL ME, HE WOULD HAVE DONE SO ALREADY.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT
AND....
.....
WHAT?

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS INCIDENT.....
STAY SILENT FOREVER!
.....
THAT... HASN'T BEEN CONFIRMED YET..
WHEN I WAS ATTACKED, HE WHISPERED SOMETHING ....
..... "SWITCH".
...「switch」。
!
HEY!
HAL!
"SWITCH"?
STAND UP

!!
WE ARE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE RUMORS!
SAWAKI MENTIONED "SWITCH" TO HAL!
HMM.
...IT'S "SWITCH" AGAIN?
CLACK
IF THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN "SWITCH" AND RYUUGEN,
THEN WE CAN CONTINUE WHERE THE INVESTIGATION OFFICERS LEFT OFF SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!
RING RING RING

HELLO.
IT'S ISOBE.
HOW IS YOUR INVESTIGATION GOING?
I HAVE LOCKED A TARGET FOR INVESTIGATION,
AND FOLLOWED HIM FROM MORNING UNTIL
ONLY ONE PERSON?
IT'S SHINGO TSUYUKI, AN INVESTIGATOR FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH.
I HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT HE IS MONITORING THE BOY'S RECOVERY, AND HEARD HIM RECEIVING ORDERS FROM A CERTAIN SOMEONE.
GO CHECK HIS BANK ACCOUNT
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL CONFIRM THIS.
THERE SHOULD BE MORE THAN WHAT HIS WAGE COVERS.
AND .....

THE POSSIBILITY OF TSUYUKI USING DRUGS IS FAIRLY HIGH.
I UNCOVERED A WRAPPER MOSTLY LIKELY CONTAINING DD IN HIS CAR..
MURMUR
!
ISOBE? HOW ARE YOU?

BUT I WILL NOT FORGET WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? HAVE YOU PRETENDED TO BE RIGHT ARM?
BEEP
"THE LAST DAY" IS READY, AND IS ABOUT TO GO AHEAD.
CLOSE
YOU HAVE TO PREPARE YOURSELF, TOO.
CLICK
"THE LAST DAY"?

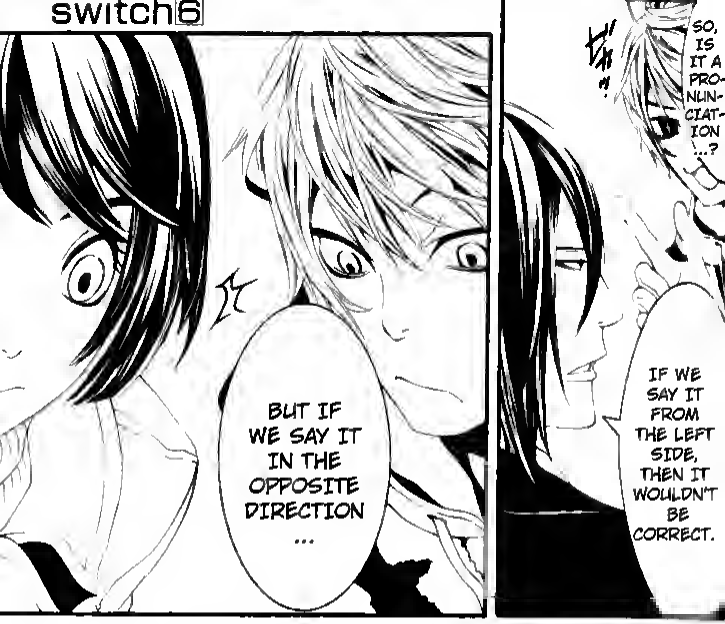
THEY EVEN INSTALLED TRACKING DEVICES!
!
SO IT'S RYUUGEN AGAIN...?
OF COURSE.
MY MEMORIES ARE USEFUL TO YOU, BUT A HUGE RISK FOR RYUUGEN.
THEY HAVE BEEN MONITORING ME AND MY PROGRESS IN RECOVERING MEMORIES.

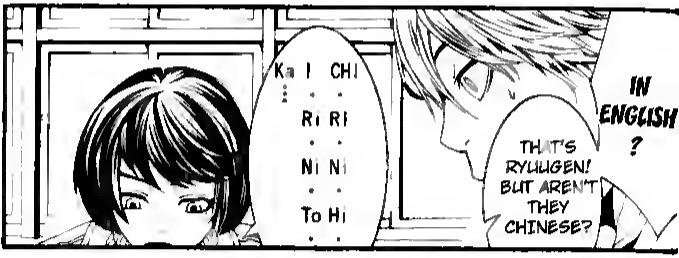
IT SHOULD BE NEAR... YOKOHAMA'S RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW THE WAY?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THE THINGS THAT I STILL CANNOT REMEMBER.
I WANT TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES...
IT'S JUST THAT ...
MY MEMORIES ARE SO TERRIFYING
JUST LIKE NIGHTMARES, THEY CONTINUE TO COME...
THE ME IN MY DREAMS IS HAPPY.

IF I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING, THEN I WOULD SURELY DRIVE MYSELF INSANE...
SO TERRI-FYING ....
AND WOULD DEFINITELY BE KILLED ...
PLEASE, SAVE ME...
I DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO RYUUGEN ...
PLEASE TELL ME.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
.....

MY NAME IS....
"AKABANE".
I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SEEN THE FACE...
OF THE MAN CALLED "THE RIGHT ARM."

YOU STILL CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT?
UM....
ARE'NT THERE A LOT OF "I"S ...?
YES.
IN THESE LETTERS, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 7 "I"S
AND, THEY ARE PLACED IN AN ORDERED MANNER.
I UNDER-STAND!
ORDERED MANNER?


BUT IF WE SAY IT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION ...
IF WE SAY IT FROM THE LEFT SIDE, THEN IT WOULDN'T BE CORRECT.
SO, IS IT A PRONUNCIATION ...?


Ka I CHI
RI RI
NI NI
To Hi
THAT'S RYUUGEN! BUT AREN'T THEY CHINESE?
IN ENGLISH?

TYPE TYPE
ARRANGE THESE WORDS INTO ORDER...

THAT'S TOO EASY.
NO
YEAH?

ISN'T THIS A KEYBOARD ?
THIS...
ON A JAPANESE KEYBOARD, THE KEYS FOR ENGLISH ARE IN KATAKANA
CHI=A, RI=L.
I=E, RI=L, NI=I, TO=S, ...
NI=I, HI=V.
SO, CONVERT THE KATAKANA NTO ENGLISH LETTERS AND TYPE.
"ALIVE LIST"... "SWITCH" ....
"ALIVE LIST"?
ALIVE LIST
ALIVE LIST

SO, ARE ALL RELATED PEOPLE DEAD ?
YES.
THIS INCLUDES ALL EVIDENCE ...
... THEN ...
THE CODE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT "THE SURVIVORS OF PEOPLE RELATED TO SWITCH"...
!
!
RING RING RING

THE TRACKING DEVICE WAS UNRESPONSIVE A FEW HOURS AGO.
DID YOU REALIZE THAT?
OPEN
HELLO
.....
RING RING RING
.....
I DON'T WANT EXCUSES.
NO, I HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THAT YET...
BUT WHILE I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL WARD, I CONFIRMED SOMETHING ELSE...
TSUYUKI...
WE'RE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS FRIENDSHIP ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ABLE TO COOPERATE NICELY.
...OF COURSE.

I WILL NOT MAKE ANYMORE MISTAKES
I WILL IMMEDIATELY SEARCH FOR THE "SUBORDINATE".
WHAT ABOUT THAT ANNOYING GUY?
THAT ANNOYING GUY?
...OH YES, HIM...
I HAVE ALREADY FIXED THAT.
GOOD THEN.

THE OTHER PEOPLE ARE ALREADY SEARCHING FOR THE SUBORDINATE.
SO, I HAVE ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU TO COMPLETE.
ANOTHER MISSION?
GET CLOSE TO KURABAYASHI
KURABAYA-SHI?
MURMUR..
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM.

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THE BLACK ABYSS IS RECRUITING translators!

WE'RE CURRENTLY LACKING TRANSLATORS, BOTH CHINESE > ENGLISH & JAPANESE > ENGLISH.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP US OUT, PLEASE APPLY!
YOU CAN FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FORM AT
BLACKABYSS-MANGA.WEBS.COM/JOINUS.HTM

Act.25

JUST WAIT 'TIL I GET BACK...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU SLOWLY.
SLAM

SIGH
WHERE'S ISOBE?
KANTO-SHINETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
IF HE REALLY IS WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR RYUUGEN, THEN HE WOULDN'T ACTUALLY TELL US WHERE ISOBE IS
FOOTSTEPS
SORRY I'M LATE.
WHY WOULD HE TURN HIS CELL OFF SO SUDDENLY ...
SHIT, HIS CELL PHONE'S OFF.
TYPE TYPE
WE SHOULD GO ASK HIM.
WASN'T SHINGO WITH HIM AS WELL?
MAYBE, SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED ...

SWITCH ALIVE LIST?
I'VE ALREADY DECRYPTED THE OTHER CODE
44334254313 2
↓
「switch」
↓
「ALIVE LIST」
WELL, THIS IS ONLY A THEORY... BUT IF I'M CORRECT, THEN...
THEN THIS ALIVE LIST COULD BE A RECORD OF THE SWITCH SURVIVORS.
!
KAJI..
THE LIST IS HERE...
...
SO, YOUR THEORY ...

KID... WHO LOST HIS MEMORIES ...?
IT COULD VERY WELL BE TRUE!
!
IT DOESN'T REVEAL ANY NAMES, BUT ISN'T IT TOO CLOSE TO JUST WRITE IT OFF AS A COINCIDENCE?
...YEAH.
IF THIS BOY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SWITCH...
...KAJI...
WE CANNOT USE ASSUMPTIONS WHEN MANAGING CASES.

BESIDES...
PERSONAL FEELINGS CAN GET IN THE WAY OF GOOD JUDGMENT.
ONCE IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED, WE CAN BE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE RESULTS.
BUT, IT'S BOTH DANGEROUS AND ABSURD FOR YOU TO ASSUME ANYTHING.
HAS HAL CALLED TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION YET?
NOT YET.
I ONLY BELIEVE WHAT I SEE WITH MY OWN BUT YOU GUYS KEEP ON BELIEVING IN SWITCH.
IF THIS WAS THE ENEMY'S PLAN ALL ALONG, WOULDN'T YOU JUST BE WALKING INTO THEIR TRAP?
DON'T FORGET, YOUR MISSION IS JUST TO INVESTIGATE THE ORGANIZATION RYUUGEN.
THIS TIME, THEY'VE COME PREPARED.

I APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK.
YOU'VE UNCOVERED ANOTHER POSSIBLE THEORY, WHICH IS IMPORTANT.
!
!!!
RIGHT...
silen——ce
BUT...
CAN YOU PLEASE HELP ME INVESTIGATE TSUYUKI SHINGO'S BANK ACCOUNTS?
...OKAY.
KAJI...
TELL KAI ABOUT THESE PHOTOS, SO HE CAN INVESTIGATE THEM, TOO.
GOT IT...
...JUST BACK THEN, THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGED COMPLETELY.
...HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, BUT STILL, HE'S QUITE A SCARY PERSON.

I THINK I'M A LITTLE CAR SICK.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HAVE A REST, THEN.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE IMPATIENT, BUT PUSHING YOURSELF ISN'T GOOD.
YEAH...
WAIT!
GRAB
I'LL JUST CONTACT MY DEPARTMENT IN THE MEANTIME.
OPEN

I KNOW THAT YOU TRULY BELIEVE IN YOUR COMPANIONS, BUT THEY MIGHT BE SPIES FROM RYUUGEN, TOO!
!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
CLICK
AT LEAST UNTIL I GET MY MEMORY BACK ...
PLEASE DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING ...
HMM... HMM.
BANG
.....
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

IF I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
.....
IS THAT SO...
I'D PROBABLY FEEL BETTER IF I SAID IT ALOUD...
...THE PLACE I WANT TO GO TO IS WHERE I USED TO LIVE WITH MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
MY FATHER WAS A MEMBER OF RYUUGEN. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KILLED, BECAUSE HE LIED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE GOT FROM SELLING DRUGS.
MY PARENTS TOOK ME AND WE RAN FOR OUR LIVES...

PROMISE ME!
WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, ALL I COULD SEE WAS A SEA OF BLOOD.
HE DIDN'T KILL ME.
THAT YOU WILL KEEP THOSE EYES UNTIL YOU DIE!
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE KILLED, TOO... BUT THAT GUY...
FROM TODAY ON, YOU WILL BE CALLED "AKABANE."
ABANDON YOUR NAME.
ARE YOU... AFRAID OF ME ...?
SQUEEZE
...TERRIBLE THINGS?
AFTER THAT DAY, I BECAME ONE OF THE RIGHT ARM'S SUBORDINATES. AND I'VE DONE A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS.

FROM NOW ON, I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LIFE ANY-MORE.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO WORK FOR RYUUGEN.
IF IT WERE YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? IF YOU TRIED TO ESCAPE, YOU'D RISK FACING HEAVY PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE!
I'D JUST BE BETTER OFF BEING DEAD!
I WANT TO KNOW MY REAL NAME...
NOT THE "AKABANE," WHO IS CONTROLLED BY THE RIGHT ARM.

MAYBE THEN...I COULD GO BACK TO THE PERSON I USED TO BE...
WHERE AM I? I DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE!
STOP CRYING. IT'S OKAY NOW!
TRUST US!
SCARED... I'M SO SCARED!
KAI!
EVERYTHING'S FINE
EVERYTHING'S FINE!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE THINGS OUT.
AND ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS WILL GO AWAY!
HUG
YEAH...
.....
YOU WANT ME TO LURE HIM OUT?
BUT, WAIT!
AND YOU WANT ME TO REMOVE KURABAYASHI,
LIKE I DID TO ISOBE...
AFTER THIS INCIDENT ENDS, YOU ARE TO IMMEDIATELY LEAVE JAPAN

.....
Y-YES... I UNDER-STAND.
BUT, IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL DIE.
DIRECTOR!
IT'S A FAX FROM THE NAR COTICS DEPART-MENT.
!
HOPE THAT YOU CAN DETERMINE THIS PERSON'S IDENTITY ASAP...
OKAY... CONTACT SHIBA TO CONFIRM THE NAMES...
THANKS!

Thanks.
DIRECTOR, HAS ISOBE CONTACTED YOU?
NO, WHY?
I SEE ...
CLICK
WELL, A FEW HOURS AGO, HE TOOK OFF SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING.
!!
ISOBE DID?
ARE KURABAYASHI AND SHIBA STILL TOGETHER...?
YEAH.
I'LL GO JOIN UP WITH THEM, THEN.
AFTER ALL... YOU DON'T WANT US ACTING ALONE,
RIGHT?

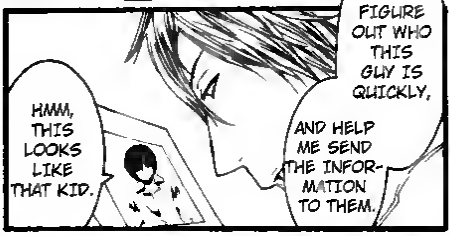
FIGURE OUT WHO THIS GUY IS QUICKLY,
AND HELP ME SEND THE INFORMATION TO THEM.
HMM, THIS LOOKS LIKE THAT KID.

...OKAY.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE ON THIS.

UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL BE GOING, THEN.
...HAS ISOBE GONE MISSING?

VROOM
SWISH

WOULD ISOBE, WHO'S BEEN IN CHARGE OF MONITORING SHINGO, RANDOMLY GO OFF BY HIMSELF?

BANG

HMM... SAKAI KAZUYO ...
!!
WAIT A SEC !!!

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO READ THROUGH THIS INFORMATION
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON INVESTIGATING?
AREN'T WE HERE TO CONFIRM WHETHER IT'S ACCURATE OR NOT?
DING DONG

...
SAKAI
...?
PLEASE, WAIT HERE.
I AM KURABAYASHI, FROM THE KANTO-SHINETSU BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE.
HELLO
MAY I ASK WHETHER MISS SAKAI IS PRESENT OR NOT?
OPEN
1ST INVES DIVISI
DIREC-TOR!

I'M BACK!
ISOBE!
HE'S FINALLY STARTED TO ACT.
KIDNAPPING, AND EVEN HOLDING PEOPLE CAPTIVE!
CAP-TIVE?
I MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH THE ROPES, THOUGH.
BUT...
DID YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE ...?
NOW I CAN CONFIRM THAT HE REALLY IS UP TO NO GOOD!
VERY TRUE.
SO...
HOW IS THE INVESTIGA-TION GOING?
IT'S ALMOST FINISHED; WE JUST NEED TO CONFIRM THE LIST.

I RISKED MY LIFE TO PROTECT THIS EVIDENCE. I DON'T WANT TO JUST HAND IT OVER TO THE POLICE!
JUST IGNORE THE KIDNAPPING PART!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
THIS ISN'T UNDER
OUR JURISDICTION
!
FAINT...
WE HAVE TO BE THE ONES TO ARREST THEM...
HUH...?
RING RING RING RING
QUICK- FINISH ATHERING HE INFORMATION EFORE HE RECOVERS ...
ISOBE!

IT'S ME.
ISOBE IS MISSING.
... GOUDARE.
DON'T WORRY.
HE HAS ALREADY RETURNED.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
TSUYUKI SHINGO KNOCKED HIM OUT AND HELD HIM CAPTIVE AFTER ISOBE FOUND OUT EVIDENCE AGAINST
WHA... WHAT...?
AND SADLY, SHINGO APPEARS TO BE USING DRUGS.
AHH....!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
I'M GONNA HAVE HIM AR-ESTED NOW!
IT'S BEST NOT TO ACT JUST YET.

IT'S THE GOAL OF RYUUGEN!
!
THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE
IF WE LET HIM ACT FREELY, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT HIS REAL GOAL.
NO...
WHERE IS SHINGO NOW?
HE'S MEETING UP WITH SHIBA AND KURABAYASHI.
OKAY.
BUT, HE MIGHT TRY TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN.
TELL SHIBA TO BE ON GUARD.
UNDER-STOOD.
NO... NOT SHIBA. IS HE TRYING TO FIND KURABA-YASHI ...?
WHAT IS SHINGO PLANNING TO DO WITH THEM?

.....
.....
CLICK
...A TRAITOR...

...SO, WHAT NOW?
WERE THE EXPLOSIVES TOO STRONG?
SORRY ABOUT THAT

ARE YOU THERE? SAY SOMETHING ...

I ALMOST REALLY DID LOSE MY MEMORY.
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE ME------
HAHA... SO THEN?
A CAR ACCIDENT ?
I'M BRINGING THE KEY TO THE "FINAL DAY" NOW.
HOW IS IT GOING ?
AH THE LONG WAIT IS OVER.

THE DRIVER WAS DRUNK... SAKAI WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY.
SAKAI DIED NINE YEARS AGO.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MUCH HELP.
HEY!
WAIT FOR ME...
LET'S HEAD OVER TO ANOTHER PLACE.
HUH?
WHAT SHE SAID JUST NOW...JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
BANG
.....

BUT, HE DIED OF CANCER THREE YEARS AGO.
...IS THAT SO...
...THE PERSON IN THE PHOTO IS INDEED MY HUSBAND...
VROOM!!!
OKAY..
YEAH
CLICK
NEXT!
..HEY...
...WHAT IS IT?
DON'T TELL ME THIS LIST OF PEOPLE IS...
.....

LIKE I SAID ...
SWISH
!!! BOOM
SLAM!
I KNOW THAT!
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT!
THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE ARE ALL DEAD!
THERE'S NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR AGES OR CAUSE OF DEATH AT ALL!
IS THIS LIST EVEN RELATED TO SWITCH?
AND I WANNA ASK YOU!
OF COURSE IT'S RELATED TO SWITCH.
Hh,

SHINGO!
IT'S...
IT HAS TO BE RE-LATED
WEREN'T YOU WITH ISOBE?
I WAS TOLD TO WORK WITH THE TWO OF YOU.
KURABAYASHI, IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE MET?
HEY. NICE TO MEET YOU.
...YEAH.

YOU, TOO.
THIS PHOTO ...?
IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HIM...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE SAME KID, SO I CAME OVER TO VERIPY THE ADDRESS.
KURABAYASHI, IF IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH YOU, LET'S GO AND CONFIRM THIS ADDRESS.
YEAH.
FINALLY, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WORKING OUT.
RING RING RING RING
!

...IS SHINGO WITH YOU GUYS? CAN YOU PLEASE REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THEM?
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.
OKAY...
KANTO LOCAL FINANCE BUREAU..
NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT
HELLO
.....
EXCUSE ME...
KURABAYSHI ...ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR HIM, TOO?
.....

IF I TOLD YOU THAT I KNOW WHERE HE IS, BUT THAT I COULD TAKE ONLY YOU THERE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
A TRAP ...?
THE KEY TO "SWITCH" ...
!
IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT.
SMILE
...SUCH CONFIDENCE
...
YES.
TAKE ME THERE!
...EH? WHERE'S SHINGO ...?
VROOM

WHAT HAPPENED ?
...BOTH OF THEM ...!
?
DAMN IT!
CLAP
I CAN'T REACH HIM ON THE PHONE, EITHER!
!
..KAI AND THAT KID...
THEY'RE NOT IN THE HOSPITAL ANYMORE!
KAJI?

STOPS
.....
BANG
.....
click
NOTHING, IT'S JUST A LITTLE...
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

NEVER MIND. I'M BEING PARANOID ...
... AKABANE ?
HUH .....?
FOOTSTEP
!

AKABANE !??
!
CLASP
YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED
COME!
LET THE "FINAL DAY" BEGIN.

GREAT INVESTIGATOR YOU ARE!!
I SCREWED UP
YOU WHAT...?
LOOK, I'M SORRY!
WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT YOUR NAME WAS "SHIVA"!
do I look like a freak god or something...?
WELL, IT'S NOT. IT'S "SHIBA," WITH A "B"!
WE'LL BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT NAME FROM NOW ON!!
NOW OUR READERS ARE GOING TO BE CONFUSED!!
NO, THEY WON'T.
THE BLACK ABYSS WILL DEFINITELY MAKE AN EXTRA PAGE EXPLAINING THEIR ERROR.
WAIT, IT'S US!?
HW?

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Act.26

Intelligence Unit
IBU, THIS IS BAD.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS WHETHER SHINGO IS WILLING TO TELL US ABOUT RYUUGEN.
HE'S BEEN SET UP.
SOMEONE HAS BEEN DEPOSITING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY INTO SHINGO'S BANK ACCOUNT.
...AS EXPECTED
THE RESULTS OF SHINGO'S HAIR STRAND ..
First Investigation Unit
HE STARTED CONSUMING DRUGS APPROXIMATELY A FEW MONTHS AGO.

SUCH A PITY... RIYUU.
.....
...THIS IS IT.
SHINGO IS IN DEEP TROUBLE!
...PLEASE
LET OUR UNIT ARREST SHINGO!
.....
...PLEASE DO ME A FAVOR.
...WHAT IS IT...

I STILL CAN'T CONTACT THEM.
I'VE ALREADY SENT OUT PEOPLE TO SEARCH FOR THEM.
HOW IS KAI-KUN AND THAT OTHER GUY?
CLICK
...OKAY THEN.
YOU'LL DEAL WITH ARRESTING SHINGO.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY CAN'T BE CONTACTED!
SOMETHING TOTALLY UNEXPECTED!
I HOPE THAT THEY'RE OKAY...

WHAT'S TAKING THE LIGHT SO LONG!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SFX: BEEP BEEP
DAMN IT!
SHUT IT. YOU'RE ANNOYING!
.....
GULP

YOU...
WANNA ARREST ME?
...
SORRY, I'VE NO TIME RIGHT NOW.
TING
VROOM
WHAT IF THE "KEY" ISN'T THERE?
I PROMISE THAT HE'LL BE THERE!
... BUT ...
I CAN'T PROMISE YOU'LL BE ALIVE TO SEE IT!

WHEN RYUUGEN WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DELIVERING THE DRUGS, THE ONE WHO SWAPPED THE DRUGS WITH THE EXPLOSIVES
WAS MOST LIKELY SHINGO, WHO WAS INVESTIGATING AT THE SCENE.
BECAUSE OF HIM, TAKEI WAS ...!
SHIN- GO'S A SPY?
BAM
DAMN!
HONKS
I'M GOING AFTER HIM NOW ...
THAT GUY PISSES ME OFF.

WANNA COME ALONG WITH ME TO CATCH THE TRAITOR?
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M ISOBE FROM THE SECOND INVESTIGATION UNIT.
!
THIS?
I JUST GOT KIDNAPPED AND HELD CAPTIVE.
KIDNAPPED AND HELD CAPTIVE?
YEP.
MY GOD...
GOT TIED UP...
SHINGO DID THIS...
...HOW CAN HE DO THIS TO HIS OWN PARTNER ...!
YEAH, COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS A LITTLE SUICIDAL OF ME.
BUT THEN...
SINCE HE'S A SPY, IT SHOWS HOW POWERFUL RYUUGEN IS, AND THAT'S TERRIFY-ING.
FOR HIM TO COMMIT THOSE CRIMES, HE MUST HAVE BEEN DROVE TO THE CORNER.

IF SHINGO DID IT ONCE, CHANCES ARE HE'LL COMMIT SERIOUS CRIMES AGAIN.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ACT FAST TO STOP HIM.
AS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVES LEFT, HE MIGHT DO SOMETHING STUPID.
BUT... WHERE WOULD HE GO ...
DON'T WORRY
I HAVE PLANTED A TRACKING DEVICE ON HIS CAR; WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW IT...
THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS, ALL CARS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.
KAI AND THAT KID ARE NOT IN THE HOSPITAL.
KAI'S LICENSE PLATE IS XXXX-XXX!
PLEASE PROTECT THEM IF ANYONE OF YOU SEES THEM!
TYPE TYPE
EVEN HAL'S MISSING.
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
...WHAT ABOUT THE HOME OF THIS KID ON THE LIST...?

INTELLIGENCE UNIT
THE SEARCH TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING.
ALSO ...
THOSE WHO ARE RELATED TO THE LIST...
ALL OF THEM ARE DECEASED; THE CAUSES OF DEATH AND THE DATES ARE ALL JUMBLED UP.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SIMILARITY ...
ALL OF THEM HAVE APPEARED ON MEDIA BEFORE.
WHO ON EARTH COLLECTED THIS INFORMATION...
switch
ALIV
DAMN IT!! HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO KEEP MOCKING US?
ALTHOUGH WE KNOW IT'S CONNECTED TO "SWITCH," WHY IS THE MEANING OF THE "ALIVE LIST" TOTALLY WRONG...
THIS SHOULD BE THE "DEATH LIST" INSTEAD!
SQUEEZE
ONLY THIS MAN IS ALIVE; THIS LIST IS DEFINITELY GARBAGE!

DOOR OPENS
WHAT'S THE "FINAL DAY"
EVERY-THING'S READY
REALLY
THEN LET'S BEGIN.
DO YOU KNOW?
WHAT ...?
SOME THINGS, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T, SO REENACTING THE SCENE SHOULD HELP YOU REMEMBER THEM.
WE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT FINDING A HOUSE THAT WAS THE SAME AS THE ONE SIXTEEN YEARS AGO EVEN THE FURNITURE IS THE SAME...
BANG!
!
TAP
REENACT... THE SCENE ...?
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
THIS IS ALL FOR "SWITCH"...

BANG
!
LET HIM GO!
HEY!
PLEASE!
BANG

!
BANG
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT ...
...YOU LIED TO ME?
...MY JOB WAS TO BRING YOU HERE.
AND..
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE!
GET IN!

YOUR PARTNER IS WAITING AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR FOR YOU.
KAI?
STEP STEP
BANG
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
WHY IS HE HERE?

!!
HURRY UP AND REMEMBER; YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS SCENE BEFORE.
HOLD
OUR HONORED GUEST.
WATCH CAREFULLY
BANG
!
AND HERE'S WHERE YOU MET THIS PERSON -!

NO ...
WHY IS IT LIKE THIS ...
IT HURTS ...
BANG
BANG
BANG
WHERE IS "SWITCH"?
.....
UM...
KAI?
ARE THEY DEAD?
BLEH
KURAB-AYASHI ...!
I WANT TO KILL YOU!

SWOOSH
GRIP
!
...I'M SORRY...

I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE KURA-BAY-ASHI.
DON'T YOU REMEM-BER ME?
URGH... KAI ...?
HAHA HA! THAT'S IT!
REMEMBER!
THAT'S WHY...
I'VE GOT TO KILL YOU!
CLANG
CLICK CLICK CLICK

SHIBA ...!
... EH ...
CLICK
!
SORRY, I LEFT THEM BEHIND ...
THAT'S NOT IT.
OKAY.
COULD YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ...?
TELL ME HOW IT FEELS BEING BETRAYED BY YOUR PARTNER!
!!
HAHAHA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH YOU.
I HAVE TO HURRY TO THEM...
SO...

HUTS
FUCK OFF!
I TRUSTED YOU...
DON'T YOU PASS OUT!
WE TRUSTED YOU SO MUCH...
WE HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOU!
CLICK
URGH!

WHAT?
THIS CAR...
OH REALLY? DON'T BULLSHIT ME!
ISOBE!
WHY DID YOU BRING KURA-BAYASHI HERE?
I... I DON'T KNOW ...
!
THIS IS THE CAR ETO DROVE OFF WITH!
I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE ...
I'LL BE KILLED ...
KILLED ...!
JUST WHAT HAPPENED HERE ...?
ENOUGH ALREADY!
I DON'T CARE WHAT EITHER OF YOU DO JUST HURRY UP AND GET ME THE HELL AWAY FORM HERE!
IN THERE ...?

BAM!
URGH!
KEH! YOU BRAT!
WAKE UP!
HA HA HA!
HE CAN'T. NOT UNTIL HE RECALLS EVERY-THING!
UNTIL HE REMEMBERS THE KEY TO 'SWITCH'...
I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME PLANNING FOR THIS.
!
I PRETENDED TO LOSE MY MEMORIES, AND PUT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT INTO MAKING HIM COME HERE ALL FOR THIS.

Huff!
THE FINAL DAY BEFORE ETO KAI LOST HIS MEMORIES SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!
Huff!
Huff!
HOW PERFECT!
JUST SLIPPING THE WORD 'SWITCH' HAS MADE YOU GUYS COME RUNNING.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU GUYS THAT MADE 'THIS DAY' POSSIBLE.
KAI'S MEMORIES ARE THE KEY TO 'SWITCH'?
DON'T TELL ME...!
URGH!
SWOOSH
...No... I don't want...
I don't want to remember...
...HAL...

...
HELP
ME
...
!

KACHA
!
HOLDS
THIS FAST AND SOMEONE'S ALREADY HERE TO INTERRUPT.
SO CLOSE ...
!
GOTTA CLEAN UP THE MESS.
SEARCHES

BANG
MOVE!
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO INTERFERE AFTER PLANNING THIS FOR SO LONG.
!
KAI!
COUGHS!
SHOCKED
NO... I... CAN'T ...
... NO... I... CAN'T ...
!
I CAN'T REMEMBER THEM!

DID YOU KNOW? ONLY THE DRAGON ON RYUU-GEN'S RIGHT ARM IS NOT BLACK.
IT'S RED. IT ONLY APPEARS WHEN I'M EXCITED.
THE RED DRAGON ON THE RIGHT ARM? DON'T TELL ME...!
KURABAYASHI!
ISOBE!
!
BANG
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

BANG
BANG
BANG
AKABANE-SAMA!
BANG
BANG
!
...IT WILL BE TROUBLE-SOME IF ANY OF YOU GOT CAUGHT ...
EVEN IF IT MEANS KILLING YOUR OWN PARTNER, NEVER LEAVING ANY EVIDENCE BEHIND IS THE WAY I, RYUUGEN'S RIGHT ARM, DO THINGS.
CLICK

IS THAT SO?
YOU DEFINITELY CANNOT REMEMBER THEM!
KAI, YOU MUST UNDER-STAND.
I KNOW...
GRABS
!
IF I HAD TO REMEMBER THEM...
IF I HAD TO REMEMBER THEM...

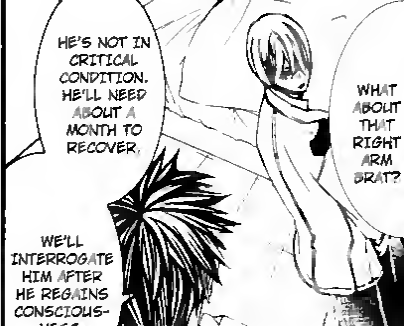
THEN I'D RATHER DIE...

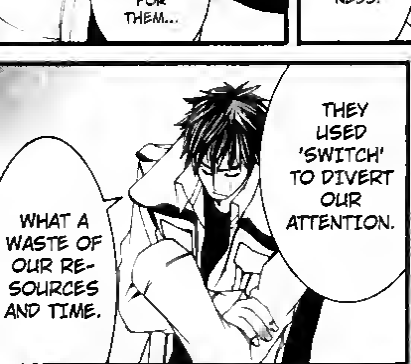
!
PUSH
BANG
URGH!
TSK!
BANG
BANG
!

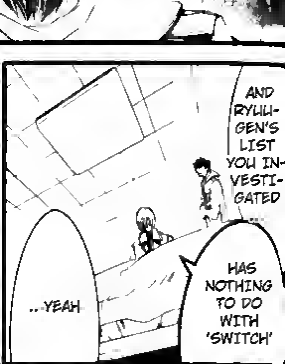
AH...
OH MAN...
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HURT THEM ANYMORE!
HURRY AND CALL THE AMBU-LANCE!
KAI!
!

WOOO
WOOO
WOO
KAI!
KAN TO RO SAI HOS PI TAL
KA-CHA
.....

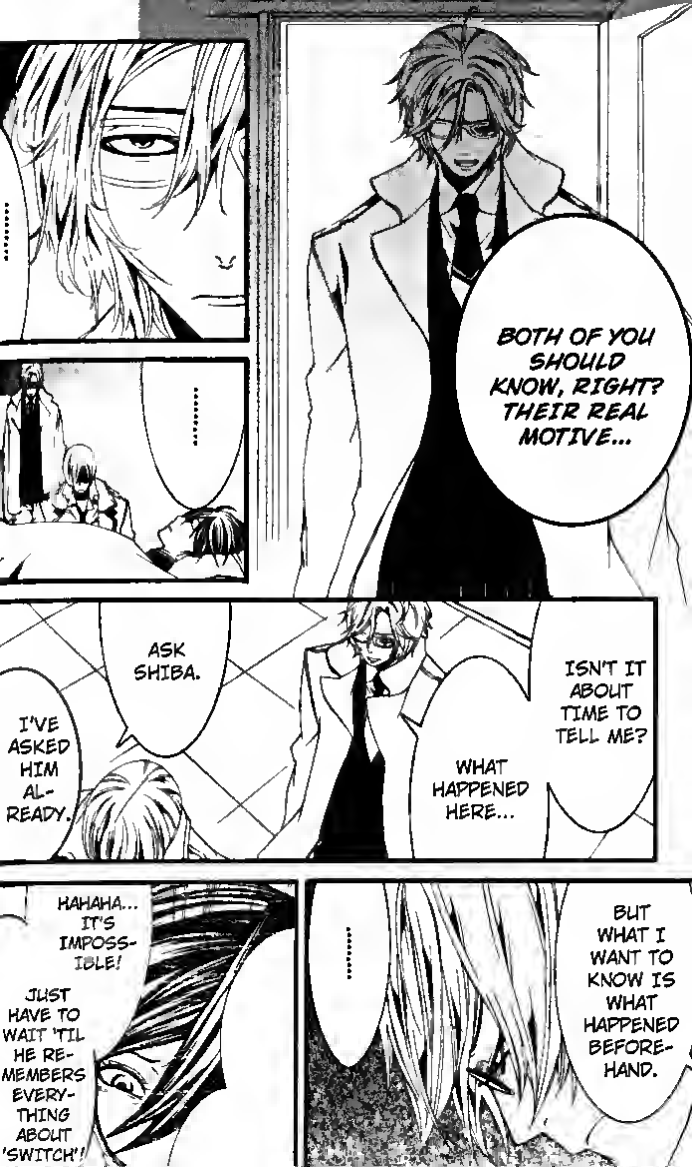
THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VICTIM'S MOTHER AND SON WERE JUST REPORTED TO POLICE YESTERDAY.
HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR THEM...


HE'S NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION. HE'LL NEED ABOUT A MONTH TO RECOVER.
WE'LL INTERROGATE HIM AFTER HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHAT ABOUT THAT RIGHT ARM BRAT?


THEY USED 'SWITCH' TO DIVERT OUR ATTENTION.
WHAT A WASTE OF OUR RESOURCES AND TIME.


AND RYUUGEN'S LIST YOU INVESTIGATED...
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH 'SWITCH'
..YEAH

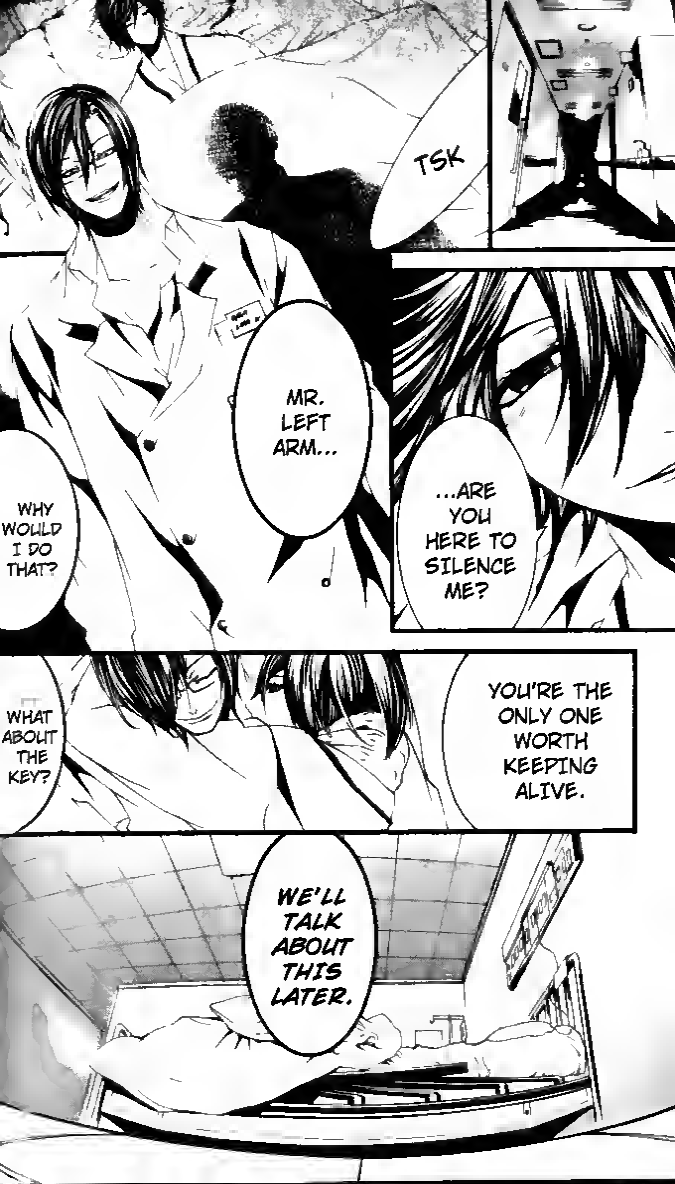
RYUUGEN'S REAL MOTIVE IS TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH OF 'SWITCH' FROM SIXTEEN YEARS AGO.
.....


.....
.....
BOTH OF YOU SHOULD KNOW, RIGHT? THEIR REAL MOTIVE...
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TO TELL ME?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE...
ASK SHIBA.
I'VE ASKED HIM AL-READY.
.....
BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE-HAND.
HAHAHA... IT'S IMPOSS-IBLE!
JUST HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL HE RE-MEMBERS EVERY-THING ABOUT 'SWITCH'!

.....
...I'LL WAIT FOR HIM TO WAKE UP...
KA-CHA
BITES
...JUST WHAT HAPPENED THERE...?
IF I KNEW, I WOULDN'T BE ASKING!
... TELL ME!
JUST WHO ARE YOU?
KAI...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT 'SWITCH' IS...?
AND

IS HE RELATED TO THE 'FINAL DAY'...?
WHO DID YOU RE-MEMBER ME AS BACK THEN...?
MY...
FATHER IS THERE, TOO. ..?
!
.....
IT HURTS!
YOU..
EH? AKABANE .. WHERE'S THAT GUY?
WHERE AM I ...?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED OVER THERE...?
...NO, I DO.
SO...
GRABS
DON'T ASK ANY FURTHER, KURABAYASHI.
!
.....
HUGS TIGHTLY


TSK
MR. LEFT ARM...
...ARE YOU HERE TO SILENCE ME?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WORTH KEEPING ALIVE.
WHAT ABOUT THE KEY?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

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EARLY DAYS

THERE ARE TWO DRUG DEALERS INSIDE.
AFTER THE TRANSACTION, THEY WILL LEAVE SEPARATELY
THAT'S WHEN WE ARREST THEM!
WAIT FOR THE FIRST GUY TO COME OUT...
DAMN, WHY AREN'T THEY COMING OUT?
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA GET THOSE GUYS!
KAJIYAMA KEIGO
22 YEARS OLD (10 YEARS AGO)
NEW INVESTIGATOR
IT'S BAD LUCK TO BE OVERLY ANXIOUS!
HUH?!

...WISH THAT WE COULD SETTLE THINGS WITH PEACE, NOT WITH VIOLENCE.
WHERE'S THE GUN?!
IT'D BE DANGEROUS IF YOU HAD THE GUN.
I...
RUSTLE
HIKI MASATAKA
22 YEARS OLD
NEW INVESTIGATOR
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU'LL GET KILLED IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY
Hey you two newbies! shut up!
SORRY
MY APOLOGIES

opens
STEP STEP STEP
!
KAJIYAMA!
THIS TIME I'LL SHOW YOU GUYS HOW GOOD I AM!!
DON'T MOVE! I'M WITH THE NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT!
STOP!
SORRY. IT SEEMS YOU'RE A LITTLE SLOWER THAN WE ARE.
!

THE POSITION IS...
YOU WAITED THE WHOLE TIME THINKING I WAS THE DEALER, DIDN'T YOU?
NARITA AKIMUNE
28 YEARS OLD
MEGURO POLICE DIVISION
POLICE?!
YEP.
here
LET ME HAVE A LOOK
I DIDN'T SEE ANY UNDERCOVER OFFICERS THIS MONTH.
WHERE ARE THE OTHER INVESTIGATORS?
takes back

SOMETIMES, A CASE ONLY NEEDS ONE PERSON.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DETECTIVE NARITA-SAN?
!
YOU'RE ALREADY A DETECTIVE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, AND YOU WORK ALONE...
YOU MUST BE PRETTY SKILLED, EH?
TURNS AWAY

YOU COCKY BAST-ARD ...
KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF!
DAMN THAT ASS-HOLE!
If only we had known.
WE WOULDN'T HAVE EMBARASSED OURSELVES LIKE THIS!
OH WELL, THEY'RE FASTER, SO...
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT THE CRIMINAL WAS CAUGHT?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO CASUALLY?!
ALL OUR HARD WORK WAS FOR NOTHING !!!
KAJIYAMA!
ALL THESE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAD TO PAIR UP WITH YOU, YOU'RE SO HARD TO WORK WITH!

I WANT TO DO THIS ON MY OWN!
sigh
CAN'T YOU TWO JUST GET ALONG?
GET ALONG ?!
KAJIYAMA.
.....
WE ALL KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT THAT...
... IS HIS ONE WEAK-NESS.
THAT GUY HAS NO IDEA HOW TO WORK ON A TEAM.
YEAH HE'S PASSIONATE AND WORKS HARD...

……
……

gulp
THIS TIME I'LL....
ARREST THOSE CRIMINALS MYSELF !!!
THUD
stands
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S SOME PEON DEALER OR A MAJOR ONE!
I'VE GOTTA ARREST THEM AND EARN SOME RESPECT!
BANG
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF!

WHO ARE YOU?!
!
YOU KEPT SPYING ON US...
Sigh
CREAK
!
JUST GET RID OF HIM SOME PLACE.
NO!
COME HERE!
DRAGS
AGH
IT WAS SO OBV-IOUS!
WOW. THIS DUDE IS SUCH A MORON.

HE'S IRRATIONAL, IMPATIENT, A MORON AND A TROUBLE-MAKER FOR EVERYONE...
IT'S TRUE ...
...BUT HE'S AN IMPORTANT PARTNER OF MINE.
CLICK
!

DON'T MOVE!
HOW DARE YOU HUMILIATE ME IKE THAT!
WE'RE NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICERS!
SIGH
KAJI-YAMA.
TOUCH
IT'S NEEDED THAT YOU WORK AS A TEAM IN THIS JOB
I KNOW YOU WANT TO LOOK GOOD, BUT...
I KNOW!

I RUSH THINGS TOO MUCH.
I NEED TO WORKING FOR US ALL, NOT JUST ME.
clenches
IF YOU GUYS HADN'T COME, I'D BE DEAD ALREADY.
CONSIDER THIS MY PUNISH-MENT
!
I LOVE THIS PART OF YOU!
HAHAHA hahaha hahaha!
KAJI !
STOP TOUCH-ING ME!!!
ARE YOU BLUSHING? THAT'S SO CUTE!!
let go!
I HATE THIS PART OF YOU !!!
HAHAHAHA

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SWITCH SPECIAL
BY THE BLACK ABYSS

FINALLY...
I'M FINALLY DONE
DONE...
HO HO
LOVE
TEXT ON CAKE
HOME-MADE CHOCO-LATES ~!
KAZUI MARIE: KANTO-SHINTETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE -- RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
I'VE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY MAKING THESE CHOCO-LATES.
WAIT FOR ME KAI-CHAN
HEH HEH
HA!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME TODAY!

I HAVE TO CONFESS
KAZUI MARIE'S TARGET: KANTO-SHINTETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE FIRST INVESTIGATION UNIT, NEW INVESTIGATOR ETO KAI.
!
ARE WE GOING?
SURE?
HE'S HERE! IT'S HIM!
HE'S SO CUTE TODAY!
キョロ
?
?
WAIT!
!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME ...
!!
NO, OVER HERE!
THERE'S NO ONE.
THUMP

!
DOWN THERE...
HERE!
THESE REPRESENT ALL OUR FEELINGS!
EH?
I HAVEN'T EVEN THANKED THEM ...
TAP
EXCUSE ME...
AH?
WOW ... WE'RE SO CLOSE TO HIM!
AH ...
Running
Running
Running

Happy valentine's day!
Morning !!!
BANG
KANTO-SHINTETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE-- INTELLIGENCE UNIT.
A LARGE QUANTITY OF ANONYMOUS CHOCOLATE!
NOT ALL OF THEM RIGHT?
ARE THEY ALL FROM THE SUSPECTS WE ARREST?
IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING!!
THIS DAY IS HERE AGAIN ...
AH MIKA
... IDIOT
TOTAL COLLECTION OF ANONYMOUS CHOCOLATES :16
I THINK WE MIGHT NEED AN AMBULANCE.
SHOULD WE BRING THEM FOR TESTING?
IT TASTES FRESH .. YUCK ..
AH, DON'T OPEN THEM ..
I'M EATING ALL OF THEM!
ERRR THERE ARE ANONYMOUS GIRLS GIVING IBU CHOCOLATE?

ETO KAI, TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHOCOLATES : 30
A MOUNTAIN OF CHOCOLATE
KAI-KUN IS SO POPULAR!
EH ...
EHP WHERE ARE YOUR CHOCO-LATES?
OH,
I COULD-N'T BE BOTHER-ED.
KANTO-SHINTETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, INVESTIGA-TOR KURABUYASHI HAL. [THE #1 NO.1 INVESTIGA-TOR EVERYONE WANTS TO SLEEP WITH]
NUMBER OF CHOCO-LATES RECIEVED LAST YEAR: 40
I DON'T WANT THAT TROUBLE SO I DROVE A CAR IN TODAY.
* door open *
AH, HAL!
I WONDER BETWEEN YOU AND HAL, WHO WILL RECIEVE MORE?
BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE SWEET THINGS

YOU ...
I TOOK TIME TO SAY THIS ...
KURABAYASHI YOU'RE SUCH A COLD BLOODED ANIMAL....
POOR KAI-KUN ...
.....YOU GUYS ...
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE GIVING ME CHOCO-LATE!
BUT MY MOM SAID I SHOULD GIVE CHOCOLATES TO MY BEST FRIEND....
CONFESS!
CONFESS!
HURRY UP AND OPEN!
AH, OKAY!
CONFESS!
CONFESS!
KURABAYASHI HAL, NUMBER OFCHOCOLATES RECIEVED 1
FINE FINE I'LL ACCEPT YOURS OKAY?

KAI-CHAN!
GOOD MORNING!
AH!
HERE, OPEN UP YOUR MOUTH!
HAHA, YOU LITTLE
* ADDITIONAL ACTIONS INCLUDED
NOTE: KAZUI MARIE'S VERSION

TWO HALVES
!!!
NO……
ARE YOU OKAY ?
I'M SAVED
KAZUI MARIE, SPOILED CHOCOLATES : 1
MORNING…
RIPS
THAT MAN!
MARIE ?

CHIEF KAJI?
KAJI-KUN?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON TODAY...
KANTO-SHINTETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE FIRST INVESTIGATION UNIT, CHIEF KAJIYAMA KEIGO.
THIS MORNING, A GROUP OF GUYS I'VE NEVER MET GAVE ME THESE CUTE PACKAGES...
!!
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHOCOLATES COLLECTED (ALL GUYS) 7
AND THEY GAVE THIS WEIRD KINDA LOOK TO ME.
SIGH
WHAT ON EARTH WERE THEY THINKING, THOSE BASTARDS.
.....
...THAT MEANS LAST YEAR ALSO...
STUNNED
ALTHOUGH NO ONE SAID ANYTHING IN THAT MOMENT, EVERYONE AGREED NOT TO SAY A WORD RELATED TO VALENTINE'S DAY. TODAY WAS AN OCCASION WHERE EVERYONE IN THE FIRST INVESTIGATION UNIT WAS COMPLETELY UNITED...

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